

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

L-03 MC-02 ACDA-19 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

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R 120749Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5335

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T SEOUL 5260

JOINT EMBASSY/COMUSK MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS, MO

SUBJECT: SALE OF KOREAN MANUFACTURED M-16 RIFLES TO MOROCCO

1. EMBASSY AND COMUSK HAVE CONSIDERED VARIOUS LOCAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN ROKG'S REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO SELL 1500 KOREAN MANUFACTURED M-16 RIFLES TO MOROCCO AND ON BALANCE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT MAKE EXCEPTION TO POLICY IN THIS CASE.

2. FROM STRICTLY MILITARY POINT OF VIEW QUANTITY OF RIFLES PROPOSED FOR SALE APPROXIMATES THREE DAYS' PRODUCTION AND IS INSIGNIFICANT. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE LOSS IN PRODUCTION COULD BE MADE UP BY USE OF A FEW OVERTIME HOURS. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION ON MILITARY GROUNDS.

3. IN FAVOR OF SALE ARE THE ECONOMIC AND MORE IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY ADVANTAGES WHICH WOULD ACCRUE TO ROKG. ROKS HAVE BEEN HARD PRESSED TO FIND MEANS TO COUNTER SUCCESSFUL NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

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IN NORTH AFRICA WHICH HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ASSISTED

BY LARGE MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES. ASIDE FROM TUNISIA, MOROCCO IS ONLY CLOSE FRIEND ROKS HAVE IN THIS AREA AND M-16 SALE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE USEFUL IN STRENGTHENING SOUTH KOREA-MOROCCO RELATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE REFUSAL TO ALLOW SALE WOULD NOT REPRESENT SETBACK TO ROK RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO AND ROK DIPLOMACY. RATHER IT WOULD BE IN NATURE OF LOST OPPORTUNITY.

4. ASIDE FROM POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL LOSS TO IS MANUFACTURER, PRINCIPAL COUNTERBALANCING POINT IN OUR VIEW IS THAT THIRD COUNTRY M-16 SALE AT THIS TIME PRIOR TO FULFILLMENT ROKS OWN REAL NEEDS FOR M-16S WOULD INTERFERE WITH ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES AND SET BAD PRECEDENT. WE WOULD BE ALLOWING ROKS TO DIVERT EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED IN U.S. FINANCED PLANT FROM ITS IMPORTANT AND PRIME PURPOSE. THIS WOULD SET PRECEDENT FOR ROKS TO MAKE M-16 (AND OTHER EQUIPMENT SALES) ELSEWHERE BEFORE THEY HAVE FULFILLED THEIR OWN NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

5. SINCE SALE NOT ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING ROK DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVES IN MIDDLE EAST, AND SINCE IT DOES NOT ACCORD WITH US INTEREST IN FULFILLING KOREAN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, EMBASSY/COMUSK OPPOSE EXCEPTION TO THIRD COUNTRY SALES RESTRICTIONS IN THIS CASE.

HABIB

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, MILITARY SALES, GUNS (ORDNANCE), FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 12 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SALE OF KOREAN MANUFACTURED M-16 RIFLES TO MOROCCO  
**TAGS:** MASS, KS, MO, US  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005